REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are allowed. Claims 2 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 5 and 10 remain pending in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for Examiner's reconsideration.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

In the Office Action, claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagisawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0126431) in view of DeWolf (U.S. Patent No. 5,279,458) and further in view of Katsuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,219). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on sections of the references.

Independent claims 5 and 10 have been amended to more clearly show the differences between the claimed features and the relied on art. No new matter has been added by these changes. Support for these changes is found at, e.g., Fig. 9, page 49 line 14 - page 50 line 2, and page 51 line 18 - page 52 line 3 of the specification.

As amended herein, claim 5 recites:

> ramp-shaped rising control means for controlling a rise in rotational frequency of said cooling fan so that *when said cooling fan is caused to increase its rotational frequency to operate in a high state*, said ramp-shaped rising control means *controls the rotational frequency of the cooling fan to ramp up gradually to the high state over a predefined period, thereby reducing noise generated by the cooling fan during the change to the high state*,

(Emphasis added.)

Neither the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa, the relied-on sections of DeWolf, nor the relied-on section of Katsuki disclose or suggest *controlling rotational frequency* of

a cooling fan *to ramp up gradually to a high state over a predefined period*. Moreover, neither the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa, the relied-on sections of DeWolf, nor the relied-on section of Katsuki disclose nor suggest controlling rotational frequency of a cooling fan to ramp up gradually to a high state over a predefined period and thereby *reduce noise generated by a cooling fan during a change to a high state*.

In the February 28, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner contended that "DeWolf … teaches ramp-shaped control means (inherently) for controlling a rotational frequency of the cooling [fan] which causes the cooling fan to operate in a low, medium, or high state" and relied on Figs. 1 and 2, column 2 lines 40-68, column 3 lines 1-49, and column 4 lines 1-5 of DeWolf. In the present Office Action, the Examiner further asserts that "[a]ny increase from a low frequency to a higher frequency must follow some sort of path (or 'ramp') to get to the higher frequency."

However, the relied-on sections of DeWolf are not at all concerned with *controlling* a path from a low frequency to a higher frequency *to ramp up gradually*, and these sections are not at all concerned with controlling a path from a low frequency to a higher frequency to ramp up gradually *over a predefined period*. Hence, such sections of DeWolf neither disclose nor suggest controlling rotational frequency of a cooling fan to ramp up gradually to a high state over a predefined period.

Moreover, because the relied-on sections of DeWolf are not at all concerned with *reducing noise generated by a cooling fan during a change to a high state*, controlling of rotational frequency of a cooling fan in the manner set out in the above excerpt of claim 5 is *not inherent*.

Neither the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa nor the relied-on section of Katsuki address the deficiencies of the

relied-on sections of DeWolf.

Amended claim 5 also calls for:

> the controlling of said cooling fan being performed by said temperature control means, said time control means, and said ramp-shaped rising control means such that said time control means stops operation of said cooling fan during the predefined duration and causes said cooling fan to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and said temperature control means and said ramp-shaped rising control means *cause said cooling fan to ramp up gradually over the predefined period and operate in the high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value* regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

(Emphasis added.)

For the reasons set out above, neither the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa, the relied-on sections of DeWolf, nor the relied-on section of Katsuki disclose or suggest *causing a cooling fan to ramp up gradually over a predefined period* and operate in a high state whenever a detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value.

It follows, for at least the above reasons, that neither the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa, the relied-on sections of DeWolf, the relied-on section of Masayoshi, nor the relied-on section of Katsuki, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the apparatus set out in claim 5, and therefore claim 5 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on references.

Independent claim 10 includes features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 5. Therefore, claim 10 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on sections of Yanagisawa, DeWolf, and Katsuki for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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